

REMARKS

The application includes claims 23-57 prior to entering this amendment.

Claims 23, 26-29, 33, 35-39, and 41-56 have been amended.

Claim 31 has been cancelled.

New claims 58-63 have been added.

The applicant does not add new matter and requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 23, 25, 32-34, 39, 42, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Mekikian *et al.* (WO 2001/0188662).

Claim 23, as amended, recites “the rules engine configured to perform a second comparison of peripheral information distinct from the content of the query to a second different condition of at least one rule from the rules dictionary; the rules engine configured to selectively enable the action based on a result of the first comparison and a result of the second comparison”. The cited references fail to disclose at least this feature.

Mekikian discloses generating a question log 342 based on questions 340 sent to the reporting system. *See* page 30, lines 27-29 through page 31, lines 1-15; *also see* Office Action, page 11, first full paragraph relying on the question log 342 as the alleged peripheral information. The question log 342 contains information including “identification of the user (name, IP address, etc.)” *Id.* Certain information from the question log 342 is “surmised” to generate a report 344 that is “interpreted by humans to make business decisions”. *See* page 31, line 9 and lines 12-13. Nevertheless, Mekikian fails to disclose the features of the claims for at least the reasons that:

- the “surmising” of certain information from the question log 342 to generate the report 344 does not include a comparison of the user identification to a condition from the alleged rules dictionary; and
- the “interpretation by humans” of the report 344 does not include a comparison of the user identification to a condition from the alleged rules dictionary.

In contrast, claim 23 recites “the rules engine configured to perform a second comparison of peripheral information distinct from the content of the query to a second different condition of

at least one rule from the rules dictionary; the rules engine configured to selectively enable an action based on a result of the first comparison and a result of the second comparison”. Thus, claim 23 should be allowed. It is noted that the claimed features noted above are supported throughout the specification; for example, in paragraph 0056, as well as FIG. 4A and the descriptive textual portions. New claims 58-63 each further define the novel/non-obvious features noted above, and as such, it follows logically that each of these dependent new claims should be allowed for separate and additional reasons than those noted above based on such further definement. Claims 25, 32-34, 39, 42, and 43 recite the same or similar features either directly or indirectly, and thus should be allowed for at least the same or similar reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 31, 44-45, 50, 53, and 54 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mekikian.

Claim 44 should be allowed for at least similar reasons as claim 23. Claims 45, 50, 53, and 54, being dependent, should be allowed for at least the same reason as their respective base claims. Claim 31 has been cancelled.

The Examiner rejected claims 24, 26-30, 35-38, 40-41, 46-49, and 51-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mekikian in view of Lin *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,675,159).

Claims 24, 26-30, 35-38, 40-41, 46-49, and 51-52, being dependent, should be allowed for at least the same reason as their respective base claims.

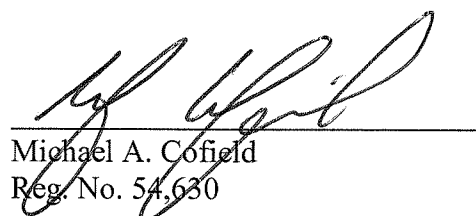
CONCLUSION

The applicant does not add new matter and requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application. The applicant encourages the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at 503 546 1811 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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